
Your guide to completing the FAFSA

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

It is important to complete the FAFSA, and you can file as early as October 1 of your senior year. Make sure to file the FAFSA before your college's priority filing deadline to qualify for the most money.

GET HELP FILING THE FAFSA

Check with your counselor to see if Get2College is hosting a FAFSA Completion Day at your school. If so, make an appointment for one-on-one assistance for you and your parents to submit the FAFSA. If we are not coming to your school, call your nearest Get2College Center to make an appointment to visit an office or ask for remote online assistance. We will be glad to help you file your FAFSA online. As always, this service is free!

GATHERING THE DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA

The FAFSA asks for basic information about the student and parent (your name, date of birth, address, etc.) and about the family's financial situation. Depending on your circumstances, you might need the following information or documents as you fill out the FAFSA for both you and your parents:

- Parent(s) and student's legal names
- Parent(s) and student's Social Security numbers
- Parent(s) and student's dates of birth
- Parent's driver's license number
- Permanent Resident Card (if applicable)
- Email address for student and parent
- Student's ACT ID number (log into ACT account and find ID number under "Manage My Profile")
- Info for parents with whom you live: marriage date, divorce date, or separation date
- If you are in a legal guardianship, bring court papers for the guardianship.
- Do not bring information on a grandparent, aunt, or anyone other than a parent unless you have been legally adopted (even if someone else claims you on the federal tax return.)
- W-2 forms and other records of money earned in 2017 (student and parents)
- 2017 Federal Income Tax Return (the 1040 form for student and parents) – If your parents or parent and step-parent file separately, bring copies of both tax returns.
- Value of bank accounts and investments

One thing you don't need for the FAFSA is money! The FAFSA is **FREE**, so if a website asks you to pay to fill it out, you're not dealing with the official FAFSA site, fafsa.gov.